

What is claimed is:

1. A system of interconnecting multiple virtual private networks, each of said multiple private networks having multiple service providers, comprising:

5 at least one interconnect provider for connecting said multiple virtual private networks,

 said multiple virtual private networks connected through said at least one interconnect provider having minimum standards for cross network services, virtual private network interoperability, inter-network performance, inter-network reliability,
10 disaster recovery and business continuity, inter-network security, inter-network customer care, and inter-network trouble handling.

 2. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a maximum acceptable latency between subscribers to different ones of said multiple virtual private networks.

15 3. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a maximum acceptable number of service providers between subscribers to different ones of said multiple virtual private networks.

20 4. A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a minimum acceptable period of unavailability of interconnected multiple virtual private networks.

 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said multiple virtual private networks comprises a program overseer to ensure end-to-end service quality across each
25 of said multiple virtual private networks.

 6. A system as recited in claim 5, further comprising a global overseer to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of said multiple virtual private networks.

7. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein said global overseer resolves disputes between ones of said program overseers for said multiple virtual private networks or said program overseers and said at least one interconnect provider.

5 8. A system as recited in claim 5, wherein said program overseer for each one of said multiple virtual private networks resolves disputes between service providers within said one of said multiple virtual private networks.

10 9. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein each of said program overseers and said multiple interconnect providers provides financial support to run said global overseer.

15 10. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein management of said multiple virtual private networks, contracts by between service providers and interconnect providers, service assurance, service description and how service providers and interconnect providers collaborate and compete are unified across said multiple virtual private networks to ensure end-to-end service quality.

20 11. A system as recited in claim 1, comprising multiple interconnect providers, wherein no one interconnect provider services all of said multiple virtual private networks.

25 12. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between multiple virtual private networks, each of said virtual private networks having multiple subscribers, multiple service providers and at least one exchange point interconnecting said multiple service providers, with guaranteed end-to-end service quality, comprising the steps of:

30 providing at least one interconnect provider disposed between a first set of said multiple service providers in one of said multiple virtual private networks and a second set of multiple service providers in a second one of said multiple virtual private networks.

13. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between multiple virtual private networks as recited in claim 12, wherein one of said at least one transit service providers is also one of said multiple service providers within at least one
5 of said multiple virtual private networks.

14. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between multiple virtual private networks as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of certifying all of said multiple service providers in all of said multiple virtual private
10 networks, said multiple transit service providers, and said exchange points to ensure minimum end-to-end quality and security levels are maintained.

15. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between multiple virtual private networks as recited in claim 12, comprising the further step of
15 providing at least one exchange point between a first set of said multiple service providers in one of said multiple virtual private networks and said at least one interconnect service provider.

16. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between
20 multiple virtual private networks as recited in claim 12, wherein a maximum number of service providers between two subscribers within one of said multiple virtual private networks is two, and the maximum number of said service providers and transit service providers between subscribers of different ones of said multiple virtual private networks is three.

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17. A method of interconnecting multiple interconnection providers between multiple virtual private networks as recited in claim 15, further comprising the step of providing at least one second exchange point between a second set of said multiple service providers in another one of said multiple virtual private networks and said at least
30 one transit service provider.

18. A system of interconnecting multiple virtual private networks, each of said multiple private networks having multiple service providers, comprising:

at least one interconnect provider for connecting said multiple virtual private
5 networks,

each of said multiple virtual private networks comprising a program overseer to ensure end-to-end service quality across each of said multiple virtual private networks, and

a global overseer to ensure end-to-end service quality across multiple ones of said
10 multiple virtual private networks,

said multiple virtual private networks connected through said at least one interconnect provider have: minimum standards for cross network services; virtual private network interoperability; inter-network performance; inter-network reliability; disaster recovery and business continuity; inter-network security; inter-network customer
15 care; and inter-network trouble handling.

19. A system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a maximum acceptable latency between subscribers to different ones of said multiple virtual private networks.

20. A system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a maximum acceptable number of service providers between subscribers to different ones of said multiple virtual private networks.

21. A system as recited in claim 18, further comprising a minimum acceptable
25 period of unavailability of interconnected multiple virtual private networks.

22. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein said global overseer resolves disputes between ones of said program overseers for said multiple virtual private networks or said program overseers and said at least one interconnect provider.

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23. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein said program overseer for each one of said multiple virtual private networks resolves disputes between service providers within said one of said multiple virtual private networks.

5 24. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein each of said program overseers and said multiple interconnect providers provides financial support to run said global overseer.

10 25. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein management of said multiple virtual private networks, contracts by between service providers and interconnect providers, service assurance, service description and how service providers and interconnect providers collaborate and compete are unified across said multiple virtual private networks to ensure end-to-end service quality.

15 26. A system as recited in claim 18, comprising multiple interconnect providers, wherein no one interconnect provider services all of said multiple virtual private networks.